

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled Claims 1-24 and 33-48, without prejudice.

Applicant has added new Claims 49-53.

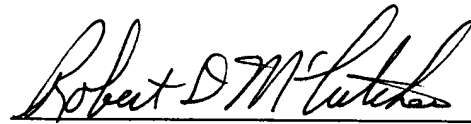
New Claims 49-53 correspond to original claims 6, 9, 11, 14 and 16. Applicant notes, for the convenience of the Examiner, that in the parent application Serial No. 09/346,870, now U.S. Patent No. 6,731,599, these original claims 6, 9, 11, 14 and 16 were objected to (as being allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim) and were rewritten in independent form as claims 50, 51, 53, 54 and 56 in the parent application. Thereafter, these claims were the subject of a restriction/election requirement (mailed January 9, 2003 in the parent application) and Applicant subsequently canceled these claims in the parent application. As such, Applicant is now presenting these claims as new Claims 49-53 in the present application, and believes that the claims are allowable over the art of record.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *rmccutcheon@davismunck.com*.

Respectfully submitted,

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